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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

Charles A. Mason, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

FOR THE YEAR 1940.

Together with the Summary of Work
of the Sanitary Inspector.

T. Bakewell, Printer, Main Street, Keswick

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Keswick Urban District Council

To the Chairman and Members of the
Keswick Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for 1940, which has been drawn up in accordance with Circular 1961 of the Ministry of Health dated 16th February, 1940, and the Registrar General's Memorandum SD/54 received July, 1941, as directed. Considerable curtailment has again been effected.

There has been no lessening in the amount of extra work involved as a result of measures relating to the war and no slackening in the effort to cope with it ; members and officials of the Council and other workers have continued to take infinite pains to overcome each difficulty as it has arisen.

I am,
Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

CHARLES A. MASON,
Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (acres) 1,272.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population (mid-1940), 5,625
(see page 5)

Number of inhabited houses (end 1940), according to Rate Books, 1,430.

Rateable Value, £34,755.

Sum represented by Penny Rate, £138 15s.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate	50	27	23	Live Birth Rate (R.G.), 9.2
	Illegitimate	2	—	2	
Still Births		0	0	0	Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births, nil.

	Total	M.	F.	
Deaths	77	31	46	Crude Death Rate (R.G.) 13.6 per 1,000 of estimated resident population.

Maternal Mortality.—
Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Childbirth) :

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births
Puerperal Sepsis	0	nil.
Other puerperal Causes	0	nil.
Total	0	nil.

(All causes England and Wales 2.16)

Infantile Mortality.—

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age	1
Death Rate ,, ,, ,, ,, —	
All infants per 1,000 live births	19
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births... ...	20
Illegitimate ,, illegitimate ,, ...	nil.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
,, Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	1
,, Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	0
,, Cancer	13

KESWICK URBAN DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1940.

The area of the district in statute acres (land and inland water) is 1,272.

Social conditions and local industries remain as hitherto. (Unemployment figures will be seen under "Public Assistance"—post).

Meteorological Conditions.—These are shown in a report by Mr. Tom Wilson, Official Observer to the Meteorological Office and Air Ministry, and given at the end of this report.

POPULATION

Population exposed to Risk (figures provided by the Registrar General) :

For Birth Rates : The estimated resident population, including non-civilians, as at the middle of the year was 5,625 (the figure for 1939 was 4,376).

For General Death Rates and incidence of notifiable disease : A population estimate constructed so as to allow for the exclusion of non-civilians and for the different areal assignment of deaths was given also as 5,625.

For Infant and Maternal Mortality Rates : Special figures are given—shown under Live Births in table on page 8—on which the calculations are based.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

In the Keswick Urban District, which is included in the Mid-Cumberland Guardians' Area, the number of persons in receipt of out-door relief was 65, giving a proportion of (approximately) 1 in 87 of the population, as compared with 1 in 120 in 1939.

Four persons were admitted to Public Assistance Hospital from this district during the year, giving a proportion of 1 in 1,406 of the population as compared with 1 in 777 in 1939.

The numbers for 1940 are detailed as follows :—

	Out-door Relief			Indoor
	Ordinary	Unemployed	Total	Relief
Keswick U.D.	60	5	65	4
(1939)	34	5	39	6)

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

Live Births.—There were 52 Live Births (27 males and 25 females) registered as belonging to the district ; of these two females were illegitimate.

The Live Birth Rate was accordingly 9.2 per 1,000 of the population, compared with 8.6 for the previous year. The rate is again rather a low one.

Comparisons may be given as follows :—

Birth Rates, 1940—Cumberland	15.6
Rural Districts of Cumberland	15.1
Urban Districts of Cumberland	16.4
England and Wales	14.6
Keswick Urban District ...	9.2

The percentage of Illegitimate Live Births was 3.2, as compared with 2.6 in 1939.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1940

	Causes of Death.	Males	Females
	All Causes	31	46
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever		
2.	Cerebro-Spinal Fever		
3.	Scarlet Fever		
4.	Whooping-cough		1
5.	Diphtheria		
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	1
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis		
8.	Syphilitic diseases		
9.	Influenza		1
10.	Measles		
11.	Ac : Polio-myelitis and Polio-encephalitis		
12.	Ac : inf : encephalitis		
13.	Cancer of b : cav : and oesoph : (M.) Uterus (F.)	2	2
14.	,, stomach and duodenum	1	3
15.	,, breast		
16.	,, all other sites	1	4
17.	Diabetes	1	1
18.	Intra-cran : vasc : lesions	4	3
19.	Heart Dis :	14	14
20.	Other Dis : of circulatory system		1
21.	Bronchitis		6
22.	Pneumonia (all forms)	1	2
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases	1	
24.	Ulcer : of stomach or duodenum		
25.	Diarrhœa under 2 years		
26.	Appendicitis		
27.	Other Digestive Diseases		3
28.	Nephritis		
29.	Puerperal and post-abort : sepsis		
30.	Other Maternal Causes...		
31.	Premature Birth	1	
32.	Congen : malform : birth inj : infant dis.		
33.	Suicide		
34.	Road Traffic acc :		1
35.	Other violent causes		
36.	All other causes...	4	3
	Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age—Total ...	1	
	Legitimate	1	
	Illegitimate		

		For 1 M., etc. M.	For 1 M., etc. F.	For B. Rate. M.	For B. Rate. F.
Live Births	Total	28	27	27	25
	Legitimate	28	25	27	23
	Illegitimate	—	2	—	2
Still Births	Total	—	—	—	—
	Legitimate	—	—	—	—
	Illegitimate	—	—	—	—

Population (for Births and Deaths)—1940—R.G.—
(a) for B.R.
(b) for D.R.'s and incidence of notifiable diseases } 5,625

Still Births.—There were no still births registered, so that the stil birth rate was nil. per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 1.37 for 1939. (The rate for all England and Wales was 0.55).

The still birth rate per 1,000 total live and still births was therefore, also, nil., as compared with 136.3 for 1939.

DEATHS

The number of deaths registered as belonging to Keswick was 77. This gives a crude death rate of 13.6 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 14.3 for the previous year. (The Adjusting or Area Comparability Factor was .87). The resulting adjusted death rate (see below) for Keswick will be noticed to be 1.8 below the crude death rate.

Comparisons :—		Crude	Adjusted
Death Rates, 1940—	Cumberland	15.2	14.8
	Rural Districts of Cumberland	14.7	13.9
	Urban Districts of Cumberland	16.0	16.3
	England and Wales ...	14.3	—
	Keswick Urban District	13.6	11.8

INFANTILE MORTALITY

There was one death among infants under one year of age, so that the Infantile Mortality Rate was 19.2 per 1,000 births, as compared with nil. in 1939.

The death was of an infant of two days old and due to prematurity.

The Illegitimate Infantile Mortality Rate (no deaths) per 1,000 illegitimate births, and the Legitimate Infantile Mortality Rate (one death) per 1,000 legitimate births, were respectively nil. and 18.8. These latter rates were both nil. for the previous year.

Comparisons may be given as follows :—

Infantile Mortality Rates, 1940 :—

Cumberland	73
Rural Districts of Cumberland	71
Urban Districts of Cumberland	75
England and Wales...	55
Keswick Urban District (approx.) ...	19

SENILE DEATH RATE

51 persons had attained the age of 65 years or upwards. This number represents a Senile Death Rate of 66.2 per cent. of the total deaths, as compared with 62.6 for 1939.

Out of the total 51 deaths :—

11 (4 m. 7 f.)	persons	died	between the ages of	65 and 70 years
10 (3 m. 7 f.)	,,	,,	,,	70 and 75 years
14 (8 m. 6 f.)	,,	,,	,,	75 and 80 years
8 (3 m. 5 f.)	,,	,,	,,	80 and 85 years
8 (3 m. 5 f.)	,,	,,	,,	85 and 90 years

INQUESTS, UNCERTIFIED DEATHS AND VIOLENCE

In respect of deaths belonging to the district during the year, there was one inquest. Inquests were also held within the district in respect of 3 non-residents.

No Coroner's certificates were received of cases where post-mortem examination had been made, but no inquest held.

2 deaths were uncertified.

Violence.—The death rate due to Violence (all forms) was 0.17 per 1,000 of the population in the Keswick Urban District. Below will be seen the number of deaths from Suicide, Road Traffic Accident, Other Violence and the Total Violence Deaths, together with the percentages of the total deaths from all causes, and the death rates from each per 1,000 of the population :—

	Suicide		Road Traffic Acc.		Other Violence excluding Road Traffic Acc.		Total Violence	
	1940	1939	1940	1939	1940	1939	1940	1939
Deaths	nil.	nil.	1	1	nil.	1	1	2
% of all causes ...	nil.	nil.	1.29	1.49	nil.	1.49	1.29	2.98
Death Rate per 1,000 population	nil.	nil.	.17	.21	nil.	.21	.17	.42

The one violence death during the year was attributed to road traffic accident.

CANCER

Cancer proved fatal in 13 cases, as follows :—

System	Primary Organ	Males	Females	Years
Alimentary ...	Stomach	1	3	54, 67, 69, 71.
	Bowel		1	44
	Tongue	1		88
Glandular ...	Parotid		1	51
	Thyroid		1	73
	Pancreas		1	64
	Prostate	1		62
Osseous ...	Maxillary Antrum	1		71
Reproductory...	Uterus		1	73
Other—untraced			1	?
Totals ...		4	9	

This number corresponds to a cancer death rate of 2.3 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 1.7 in 1939.

Approximately out of every 6 deaths of persons in this district 1 was due to cancer.

TUBERCULOSIS

(Vide also page 16).

There were 2 deaths due to Tuberculosis :—

	Males	Females
Respiratory System ...	1	1
Non-Pulmonary ...	0	0

The female was a previously notified case in this district.

The total gives a tuberculosis (all forms) death rate of 0.35 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 0.64 for 1939.

The death rate for tuberculosis of the Respiratory System is also 0.35 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 0.64 for 1939.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

1. Part-time Medical Officer of Health.

2. One Sanitary Inspector, Mr. J. Jenkins, who is also the Surveyor and Water Engineer, is a Fellow of the Chartered Surveyors' Institute (by examination), and possesses the Sanitary Inspector's Certificate and the Special Meat Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

Mr. N. Tyson acted as temporary junior clerk in the Surveyor's Office.

LABORATORY WORK.

The following table shows the amount of work done in connection with the investigations of certain cases of illness during the year 1940 :—

Material	Test applied for :	Result : Pos.	Neg.
Throat or Nose Swabs	Diphtheria	2	6
Sputum	Tuberculosis	3	1
Blood (for Widal)	Typhoid and Para-typhoid	0	1

.

Speaking generally, other particulars relating to Health Services (e.g. Hospitals, Nursing, Maternity, Ambulance Facilities, etc.), remained unchanged.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

WATER SUPPLY.

There is no change to report for 1940. Three samples were taken for bacteriological and chemical analysis—all from house taps in the town—and one sample for bacteriological analysis only, from source at Applethwaite Ghyll. In each instance the analyst reported the water to be of very high purity.

Chlorination.—Ministry of Health Circular 2086A, 2nd August, 1940 : Arising out of communications from the Ministry of Health regarding treatment of the Keswick water supply, the Council considered the matter on several occasions, but no definite action was taken up to the end of the year.

Water Mains.—The Surveyor informs me there were no extensions or work of major importance during 1940.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No sewer extensions were carried out in 1940. The Surveyor informs me the sewage effluent from the Outfall Works was satisfactory, and that several farmers continued to cart away the dried sludge for their own use, free of cost.

Closet Accommodation.—Unchanged.

SCAVENGING AND REMOVAL OF REFUSE

The method of scavenging and removal of refuse proceeds as formerly.

The refuse tip on "The Cass" was still in use, and is becoming filled up. The question of an alternative site has yet to be decided.

The provision of a special motor refuse removal vehicle has been under consideration ; this, of course, would be a distinct advance in this service.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

The sanitary inspection of the district is undertaken by Mr. J. Jenkins, who is also the Council's Surveyor and Water Engineer. It is with pleasure I again record my appreciation of his willing co-operation at all times. He is a very zealous official and has the welfare of Keswick at heart. I gratefully acknowledge his assistance in the making of this report.

Summary supplied by the Sanitary Inspector to the Medical Officer of Health, in pursuance of Article XIX of the Sanitary Officer's Order, 1926.

Premises inspected during the year	154
Nuisances or defects discovered	141
Do. do. remedied after informal notice ...	118
Do. do. do. statutory ,, ...	12
Housing Inspections under Public Health or Housing Acts	47
Factories Inspections	38

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The following table shows the position in this district at the end of 1940, and it will be seen that 21 premises were on the register. 52 inspections by the Sanitary Inspector revealed 6 defects, which were all remedied.

Premises	Number	Inspections	Defects Found	Written Notices	Defects Remedied	Prosecutions
Factories with mechanical power	7	23	1	1	1	—
Factories without mechanical power	14	29	5	5	5	—
Other Premises under the Act						
Totals ...	21	52	6	6	6	—

SHOPS.

The 156 Shops on the register remain the same. Periodical inspections were made by the Sanitary Inspector, and there is nothing further to report under this heading.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

The Sanitary Inspector co-operates with officials of the County Council. Poison is still available at the Council Offices free of charge. The refuse tip continues to be occasionally baited with rat poison.

HOUSING

Housing conditions relating to working class dwellings show little change. No progress was made in dealing with unfit houses owing to lack of alternative accommodation.

7 new houses were completed in this district during the year, all by private enterprise :—

Springs Road Area	2
Lonstics Estate, Ambleside Road	2
Rogerfield	2
Conversion of outbuilding, Crosthwaite Vicarage	1

HOUSING (RURAL WORKERS') ACT, 1926.

This temporary Act, which was due to expire 24th June, 1938, was extended to 30th September, 1942—no action was taken under it in 1940.

HOUSING APPENDIX.

(in accordance with Circular 1728 Ministry of Health, 25th Oct., 1938).

STATISTICS.

1.—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	47
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	72
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ...	0
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	0
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	0
(4) Number of welling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	0

2.—Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal Notices :

Number of defeective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ...	38

3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—No action taken.

4.—Housing Act, 1936, Part iv.—Overcrowding :—No action taken.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY.

There were 6 registered milk-sellers whose premises were within the Urban District, all being producers and retailers. Inspections are made periodically.

A large quantity of the town's milk supply is retailed by producers and retailers whose premises are situated in the surrounding Rural District. There were 9 of such producers and retailers during 1940.

The table below gives the results of 18 samples of milk retailed in the town and taken by the Sanitary Inspector, and submitted for bacteriological examination to the Cumberland Pathological Laboratory, Carlisle.

Of the 18 samples, 6 were satisfactory and 12 unsatisfactory in relation to dirt contamination, as follows :—

	Satisfactory according to Accredited Standard	Unsatisfactory according to Accredited Standard	Total
Samples produced in Urban District	4	3	7
,, ,, outside ,,	2	9	11
	6	12	18

The 12 unsatisfactory samples comprised :—

9 failing the Methylene Blue Reduction test only ;
3 ,, B. Coli test only (i.e., showing B. Coli in 2 or 3 tubes out of 3), and
8 ,, Combined test.

(Two of these were borderline cases, one belonging the U.D.)

All samples tested for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli proved negative (the same as in 1939).

On a sample of milk being reported as tubercular, investigation is made by veterinary officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. I am kindly informed by Mr. John Cameron, Divisional Inspector of that Authority, that in so far as the Urban District of Keswick was concerned, no cows were slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1925, during the year under review.

The only milk under "Special Designation" produced in the Keswick Urban District was by Mr. Martin Raven, High Hill Farm, who is also a large retailer.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Slaughter-Houses.—One of the slaughter-houses, an old registered one, was done away with as a result of representation made, so that 3 (licensed) remain. However, only 2 of these have been in use in accordance with instructions of the Ministry of Food in relation to regional slaughtering during the war. The work done in connection with this regional slaughtering is under strict supervision.

The following is a summery of meat condemned, together with other foods for which condemnation certificates were issued by the Sanitary Inspector :—

Material.	Cause of condemnation.
One leg of pork and part loin (36 lbs.)	Casualty
Bacon (210 lbs.)	Putrefaction
One hindquarter of frozen beef (224 lbs.)	do.
Two forequarters of beef (300 lbs.)	do.
Two plates of beef (37 lbs.)	do.
Sausage (8 lbs.)	do.
Three beast carcases and organs	Tuberculosis
One beast carcase and organs	Casualty
One pig carcase and organs	Dropsy
One lamb do. do.	Emaciation
Two sheep's heads and plucks	Unsound
Three turkeys	Putrefaction
98 beast livers	Cirrhosis
5 sheep livers	do.
97 tins of pineapple	Unsound (tins blown)
300 bananas	Rotten
3 lbs. butter	Dirty

Bakehouses.—In this district there were still 7 in 1940 ; these were occasionally inspected and generally found in cleanly condition.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OF, INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notifiable Infectious Diseases.—The total number of Infectious Diseases notified during 1940 in the Keswick Urban District (including Pulmonary and other forms of Tuberculosis) and excluding Measles and Whooping Cough, was 16.

(Vide post re notification of Measles and Whooping Cough).

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, 1940.

Disease		Total cases notified	Cases notified 1939 admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever		1	1	0
Diphtheria		2	2	0
Pneumonia (all forms)		10	1	1
Erysipelas		1	0	0
Measles		73	0	0
Whooping Cough		6	0	0
Tuberculosis :—				
Pulmonary	Males	2	1 (San.)	0
	Females	0	0	0
	Total	2	1 ,,	0
Non-Pulmonary	Males	0	0	0
	Females	0	0	0
	Total	0	0	0

Table showing monthly incidence of notifiable Diseases, 1940 :—

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Diphtheria ...						2							2
Scarlet Fever ...					1								1
Measles ...		1				39	22	11					73
Whooping Cough									1			5	6
Pneumonia ...	2	2				3		3					10
Erysipelas ...			1										1
Tuberculosis :													
Pulmonary ...			1								1		2
Other Forms .													0

From notifications reeeived it is deducted that approximately one in every 352 persons in this district contracted a disease notifiable under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act (Chicken-pox, Measles and Whooping Cough excluded) and the Tuberculosis Regulations. (Last year's figure, 1 in 1,166, and in 1928 it was 1 in 177).

One case of Searlet Fever (in May) and two cases of Diphtheria (in June) occurred, the patients being students and scholars attending St. Catherine's College and the Central Newcastle High School for Girls, respectively. All three were removed to Penrith Infectious Diseases Hospital with ensuing recovery.

Comparison case and death rates are given as follows :—

Searlet Fever—The case rate and death rate per 1,000 of the population were therefore .17 and nil., respectively (1939, both nil.). The corresponding rates for all England and Wales (1940) were 1.63 and .00.

Diphtheria—The case rate and death rate were .35 and nil., respectively (1939—nil., nil.). The corresponding rates for all England and Wales (1940) were 1.16 and .06. No Schick Tests or general immunisation scheme was carried out.

As in the previous nine years, no case of Puerperal Pyrexia was recorded. The case rate for this disease (including Puerperal Fever) is better expressed in relation to the number of births registered than to the population. When calculated on this basis the rate is :—Puerperal Pyrexia, nil. per 1,000 total births (i.e., live and still births) registered during the year. The corresponding rate (1940) for England and Wales was 11.96. No maternal deaths occurred—eorresponding, therefore, to a Maternal Mortality Rate of nil. per 1,000 total (live and still births), as compared with 45.5 (two deaths) in 1939. The rate (1940) for England and Wales was 2.16 (all causes).

Pneumonia.—Ten notifications were reeeived. The deaths from Pneumonia (all forms) numbered 3.

Similar to the previous year, there were no notifications of Typhoid (including Para-typhoid) Fever, Cerebro-spinal Meningitis, Poliomyelitis, Encephalitis Lethargiea, or Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Tuberculosis.—Under the Tuberculosis Regulations only two eases (male) of Pulmonary and nil. of Other Forms of Tuberculosis were notified. One of these eases and one pulmonary female previously notified were admitted to Sanatorium during the year.

The following table gives the number of New Cases and Mortality (all cases) during 1940 :—

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
Age	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 5 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55 ...	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
55—65 ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 —& upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(Untraced—R.G.)	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0

A statement regarding the total deaths from Tuberculosis will be found on page 10.

The number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of 1940 was as follows :—

	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary ...	8	4	12
Non-pulmonary	4	10	14
All Cases .	12	14	26

No action has been required to be taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, which relates to powers regarding persons suffering from Tuberculosis of the respiratory tract, and in an infectious state, and employed in connection with a dairy or the handling of milk or milk vessels.

With reference to the Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62, regarding compulsory removal to hospital or institution, no action has been taken.

Non-Notifiable Acute Infectious Diseases.—Epidemics usually occur in conjunction with epidemics in the districts adjoining.

Re Measles and Whooping Cough (which became notifiable as from 1st November, 1939).—Measles was epidemic in Keswick particularly in June, July and August, 73 cases being notified ; a few cases of Whooping Cough were notified towards the latter end of the year.

Influenza was prevalent in the winter months, in particular. One death occurred, equivalent to an influenza death rate of 0.17 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 2 deaths recorded and a death rate of .42 in 1939. (The rate, 1940, for all England and Wales was .32).

There were no school closures due to epidemic disease during the year

METEOROLOGICAL STATION

Height above sea level, 254 ft. Lat. 54° 36′ N. Long. 3° 9′ W.

RETURNS FOR 1940

	RAINFALL			SUNSHINE	
	AMOUNT Inches DAYS	Greatest Fall on one day	Average 38 years	AMOUNT HOURS DAYS	Average 38 years
Jan. ...	2.04 on 10	.74 on 18th	6.41	52.5 on 16	35.4
Feb. ...	1.76 ,, 12	.29 ,, 26th	4.58	38.4 ,, 15	53.2
March ...	5.76 ,, 19	1.10 ,, 11th	4.09	92.2 ,, 19	99.2
April ...	2.57 ,, 16	.54 ,, 11th	2.94	102.7 ,, 28	130.7
May ...	1.23 ,, 8	.42 ,, 25th	3.12	211.4 ,, 30	177.6
June ...	.96 ,, 4	.48 ,, 21st	3.21	296.8 ,, 29	182.8
July ...	6.58 ,, 26	1.26 ,, 9th	4.37	117.2 ,, 22	158.5
August ..	3.07 ,, 15	.70 ,, 9th	4.89	126.4 ,, 22	142.6
Sept. ...	5.91 ,, 16	1.24 ,, 16th	4.31	105.4 ,, 22	122.2
October..	6.82 ,, 12	1.83 ,, 9th	6.69	56.4 ,, 21	80.1
Nov. ...	7.75 ,, 24	1.24 ,, 19th	5.72	29.8 ,, 14	25.9
Dec. ...	6.24 ,, 18	.82 ,, 5th	6.52	44.2 ,, 15	26.6
Totals ...	50.69 ,, 180		56.85	1273.4 ,, 253	1234.8

TEMPERATURES

	HIGHEST MAXIMUM (in screen)	LOWEST MAXIMUM (in screen)	LOWEST MINIMUM (on grass)	Nights Frost	Wind at Gale Force	Snow Lying
			Minus			
Jan.	48.0 on 7th	0.0 on 21st	5 on 21st	28	...	19
Feb.	53.0 ,, 28th	23.0 ,, 12th	13.0 ,, 16th	16	...	7
Mar.	57.0 ,, 25th	22.0 ,, 3 & 5	17.0 ,, 3rd	12	...	...
April	64.0 ,, 27th	29.0 ,, 11th	23.0 ,, 11th	7	...	...
May	69.0 ,, 17th	34.0 ,, 11th	29.0 ,, 11th	2	...	...
June	83.0 ,, 5, 6. 7	39.0 ,, 24th	34.0 ,, 24th	...	...	...
July	71.0 ,, 31st	40.0 ,, 28th	36.0 ,, 28th	...	...	...
Aug.	78.0 ,, 2nd	38.0 ,, 24th	37.0 ,, 24th	...	...	...
Sept.	72.0 ,, 4th	31.0 ,, 29th	26.0 ,, 29th	4	...	...
Oct.	64.0 ,, 20th	30.0 ,, 26th	28.0 ,, 24th	7	...	...
Nov.	58.0 ,, 2nd	28.0 ,, 30th	21.0 ,, 30th	6	...	...
Dec.	55.0 ,, 15th	25.0 ,, 12th	20.0 ,, 12th	19	1	...
				101	1	26

	WIND					EARTH TEMPERATURES			
	Calm	North Quadrant	South Quadrant	East Quadrant	West Quadrant	Highest 1 ft.	Lowest 1 ft.	Highest 4 ft.	Lowest 4 ft.
January ...	17	2	8	4	...	36.9	33.0	44.6	40.5
February ...	9	4	11	4	1	40.3	35.2	40.5	38.4
March ...	9	5	11	2	4	45.1	36.1	42.6	39.5
April ...	9	3	4	8	6	51.5	43.5	45.5	42.8
May	14	4	5	3	5	58.5	50.2	51.3	45.8
June	13	2	6	2	7	65.0	57.1	56.0	51.5
July	11	2	8	...	10	61.8	58.5	56.8	55.8
August ...	9	5	1	...	16	63.3	56.0	58.0	56.8
September ...	7	2	2	...	19	59.4	51.0	57.0	54.8
October ...	11	2	3	8	7	52.0	46.0	54.8	51.7
November ...	11	1	6	...	12	47.6	44.1	51.5	48.0
December ...	13	1	7	4	6	43.5	37.0	48.0	44.0
	133	33	72	35	93				

ABNORMAL PRECIPITATION

November 2nd and 3rd,	1931, 6.16	inches in 36 hours
November 3rd,	1931, 4.86	,,
November 12th,	1938, 3.37	,,
November 4th,	1926, 3.32	inches in 9½ hours
December 24th,	1925, 3.50	,,
August 2nd,	1923, 3.00	,,
July 13th,	1932, 2.56	inches in 5 hours
December 2nd,	1902, 3.12	,,

SUNDRY NOTES

Thunder heard, 2 days.
Lightning observed, 2 days.
Thunderstorm with precipitation, 1 day.
Visibility less than 1,100 yards, 3 days.
More than 1 inch of rain fell on 6 days.
More than 2 inches of rain fell on nil.
Warmest Days, 83.0° on June 5th, 6th and 7th.
Coldest day, minus 5.0° on January 21st.

THE WEATHER OF 1940

The weather of 1940 will be remembered either by the severe frost and snow, or the drought.

JANUARY opened in the grip of frost, the Lakes were frozen and skating in progress ; a heavy fall of snow, 8 inches, blocked the roads and railway. Keswick was cut off for a few days and some of the outlying villages for nearly 3 weeks.

On the 21st the min. on grass reading was 5 below zero, the lowest recording at this station, and there is no record of such severe conditions in the district. Skating ceased with the snow, though the lakes and rivers were covered with ice until mid Febroary.

FEBRUARY commenced with the countryside snow and ice-bound ; there was no general thaw until the middle of the month, then, to our content, it was not severe, and floods were averted.

MARCH started with a week of summer weather ; this gave way to a wet fortnight, followed by a week of showers.

APRIL, MAY and JUNE were fine and dry, with long sunny days ; in June nearly 300 hours of sunshine was recorded. With the deficiency of rain the rivers and lakes were very low ; Derwentwater reached a new low level, ½ in, below the previous record of 1893, and this new level has been recorded by a permanent "mark." Temperatures were high in early June, 83.0 being recorded on three successive days.

JULY ended the drought, and gave us a wet month, two successive days with more than 1 in.

AUGUST started well, and on the whole a fairly nice month, some rain and a good share of bright sunshine.

The remaining months were seasonable, with few outstanding features. Grass crops were well up to average and well housed. Corn, Oats, etc., were good and housed in good time. Garden produce was plentiful and most gardeners were pleased with their wartime efforts. Trout fishing was poor owing to the low state of the streams and rivers. Salmon were plentiful, but many fishermen were away on war service. The early honey crop was good, but the efforts of the bees among the heather was not rewarded with much success.

TOM WILSON,
Observer to K.U.D.C. and Air Ministry.